OUR CONFEDERATE COLUMN

Contributions to this column are requested from Confederate veterans and other persons familiar with the history of the War Between the States. Narratives of particular engagements and personal adventures are specially requested. All contributions should be sent to The Editor of the Confederate Column, Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

May 3—Governor Jackson, of Missouri, in a message to the Legislature, recommends arming the State and advocates a union of sympathy and destiny with the slave-holding States.

President Lincoln issues a proclamation calling into service 42,000 volunteers for three years, and directing the increase of the army and navy.

May 4—Steamship Star of the West is put into commission as the receiving ship of the Confederate Navy, at New Orleans.

May 6—Virginia is admitted into the Southern Confederacy, in secret session of the Confederate Congress.

The Confederate Congress recognizes war with the United States and authorizes the issue of letters of marque and reprisal.

The Legislature of Arkansas passes an unconditional ordinance of secession by a vote of 69 to 1.

THE BEST LIKENESS OF STONEWALL JACKSON

BY REV. J. R. GRAHAM,
Pastor Emeritus of the Winchester Presbyterian Church.

The following explanatory note is an excerpt from a letter of the Rev. Mr. Graham to his son, President H. Tucker Graham, of Hampden-Sidney College:

A pastel portrait of Stonewall Jackson is on exhibition in Baltimore, belonging to Mrs. Julia McCaw, and several erroneous statements have been published respecting the photo from which it was copied. Several persons, knowing that I am acquainted with all the facts touching the photo, have urged me to give a statement of them to the public. As you see, I have yielded to their importunity. Having written the article, I did not feel at liberty to put it in print till it was submitted to Dr. William P. McGuire, as it largely concerns his family. He read it this afternoon, and not only heartily approves its publication, but distinctly confirms from his own recollection every statement that is made. He was present at the dinner referred to, and at a very impressible age.

* * * * * * *

My attention has several times been called to an article going the rounds of the press, purporting to give the history of the picture of "Stonewall" Jackson, now on exhibition in Bendann's Galleries in Baltimore. Of the early history of the picture itself I have no personal knowledge, but the statements concerning the photograph from which it was copied are altogether conjectural and in the main inaccurate.

That photograph was taken in Winchester by Routzahn very late in October, or early in November, 1862, when Jackson was in camp near Bunker Hill, and but a few days after receiving his commission as lieutenant-general. He and some members of his staff were dining with Mrs. Hugh McGuire, the mother of Dr. Hunter McGuire, the distinguished medical director of Jackson's army. A few of the general's friends in town were invited to dine with him. At the table my seat was directly opposite to his, and I carefully observed his appearance, which had changed a good deal since the previous winter, when he and Mrs. Jackson were for some months members of my family. The change was altogether in his favor. He had grown stouter and more robust; was in perfect health, in fine spirits and entirely at ease. He probably never appeared to better advantage.

As we rose from the table the daughter of our hostess said to him in a voice tremulous with doubt, yet most persuasive in tone: "General Jackson, I would like so much to have your picture." Knowing how averse he was to sitting for his picture, and how often similar requests had met with disappointments, I was curious to hear how he would phrase an excuse that would extricate him from this new embarrassment. To my astonishment, however, his answer was both prompt and gracious—"Thank you, thank you, Miss Gertie, I'll go at once and have it taken." And on our return to the parlors, without resuming his seat, he took leave of the company. Before sunset two of us who had dined with him were summoned to the studio to pass judgment upon the "proofs." There was no hesitation in selecting the one, which, from that time, has been universally accepted by those who knew him as the most faithful representation of him. It is an absolutely perfect likeness of the general as he appeared that day. The next day a finished picture was sent me from the proof we had selected, which now hangs in my library, and from which many copies have been taken.

While in the studio, the photographer mentioned an incident connected with the sitting that may be of interest to others, as it was to us. When the general had taken his seat before the camera it was noticed that a button was missing from his coat, and regret was expressed, as its absence would impair the picture. But he met the difficulty by saying, "The button is in my pocket; if you have a needle I will sew it on." The needle was supplied; and, stripping off his coat, the button was soon replaced. His sartorial skill, however, proved less exact than his stragetical, for the replaced button (the third from top on his left breast) is seen to be somewhat out of line.

It is from this photograph that the pastel portrait now at Bendann's is copied. With that portrait I have been familiar ever since it was brought to Winchester, more than forty years ago, by its owner, Captain Thomas (Dr.) McCaw, an officer of my church. It is a wonderfully exact reproduction of the original in posture, figure and dress—in everything, indeed, except the coloring, which Kester, the artist, felt at liberty to add. If, as I have compared the two, I have seemed to miss from the pastel the exact features and expression found in the photograph, it is because absolute exactness can be produced by the camera alone.

The article referred to is in error both as to the date of the photograph and the connection of General Bradley T. Johnson with it. We are indebted altogether to the winning appeal of a Winchester girl for a picture, which Mrs. Jackson has pronounced "the best likeness extant" of our great general.

I will add that when the army moved from Winchester, November 21, 1862, the "negative" of this picture was taken to Richmond. Of its subsequent history I have no definite information.

REVOLUTIONIZED NAVAL WARFARE

BY COLONEL G. N. SOUSSY
In the Savannah News

A half century is a long hark back. We are within a year of the division of time, when perhaps the most important episode of the nineteenth century was chronicled in history. March 9, 1862, forty-nine years ago, there took ... the waters of Hampton Roads, ...lent that quickly transformed ...en vessels of war of all nations ...ess crafts.

...val forces of the United States ...d the Gosport navy yard at ...th, Va., the night of April ... At that date there were at ...on the ship-of-the-line Penn... 120 guns, the sloops-of-war ...and, 22 guns; Plymouth, 22 ...e frigate Merrimac, 40 guns; ...ig Dolphin, six guns, and ...p-of-war Germantown, 22 guns. ...rimac and Plymouth had their ...cks opened, and sunk at their ...s, and the Germantown had ...ck broken by the immense ...alling across her.

...loop-of-war Pawnee, with a reg... Massachusetts' troop, all un... command of Commodore Pauld... Fortress Monroe on the even... April 20 to take command of the ... navy yard and protect the ... States property there. This ...ard was the largest and most ...nt in the United States, and ... the vessels named, there was a ...mount of valuable property be... to the general government. ...orfolk had been seized by the Virginia militia on the seces... the Old Dominion, and 300,... ...unds of powder captured and ... part to Richmond and part of it ...ut to the Norfolk fair ground. ...large seizure of gunpower be... momentuous asset to the young ...leracy.

...modore Paulding found the work ...struction well under way when ...ived in the harbor, and the Third ...chusetts and the crew of the ...ee energetically helped in the de...ion. He had been directed to ...possession of the garrison and ... the property, but those in pos...n, fearing the Virginia authori... would move upon the government ...rty, began the work of destruc... before the Pawnee's arrival. In ... the crew of the Pawnee and the ... vessels in port, as well as the ... Massachusetts energetically join... Then the families of the officers ... employes at the navy yard were ...d upon the Cumberland, and un...tow of the Pawnee, they passed out ...e harbor into Hampton Roads and ...e in to Fortress Monroe.

...e frigate Merrimac was soon after ...d, by the Confederate authorities, ...upper works cut down and her hull ...gthened. Then the design chang... ...o the conception of the new ma... architecture. Slanting sides of ...y woodwork were erected and over ..., a layer 1 1-2-inch, of rolled iron ...was diagonally laid and bolted ... ...ron plates ... 2 1-2

inches was laid, diagonally reversed, and bolted, creating an armor four inches thick. Her broadsides were pierced for eight guns and her bow and stern casemates punctured for seven and a half rifle guns of the Brooke pattern. All this had been a work of great labor, because of inefficient materials machinery and unskilled labor.

However, by March 5, the experimental ironclad had so far progressed as to warrant the authorities raising steam in her boilers.

In the James and Elizabeth rivers were also the converted gunboats Jamestown, Patrick Henry and Teaser, also the Raleigh and Beaufort. The Marrimac, now about ready, was renamed The Virginia and Captain Franklin Buchanan, of Maryland, assigned to her command.

Sailors were very scarce in the Confederacy, so a number of General Magruder's troops enlisted, leaving still the needed complement thirty-one short. Captain Kevill, of the United Artillery of Norfolk, filled he shorage, himself taking command of the detachment from his battery.

Preparations though somewhat crude were sufficiently complete to warrant Captain Buchanan's assuming the offensive. Saturday, March 8, 1862, about 11 A. M. the Virginia passed out of the Elizabeth River for her initial trial with the Federal fleet anchored in Hampton Roads.

The motive power of the Virginia was so weak her engines propelled her less than five miles an hour.

The officers of the Federal fleet had become aware of the construction of this new and novel engine of marine warfare. The officers and crews of the vessels congregated in the Roads gave little credence to the reported formidableness, therefore prepared to give battle to the Confederate monster.

As she rounded into the Roads, the drums of the sloop-of-war Cumberland, 22 guns, also of the frigate Congress, 50 guns, beat to quarters.

Straight for the Cumberland slowly steamed the Virginia. The Cumberland opened with every gun capable of being brought to bear. Her heaviest shots bounded from the armor of the Virginia as pebbles from an iron boiler.

Almost at the moment of contact, Lieutenant Jones, the executive officer, called out to Lieutenant Morris on the Cumberland, "Surrender, Morris, or I'll sink you." "Never!" responded Morris, and into her starboard bow crashed the prow of the Virginia, and in fifteen minutes the Cumberland disappeared beneath the surface of the Roads, only the upper portions of her masts being visible, her colors proudly floating, one hundred and twenty-one of her officers and men perishing with the gallant sloop.

Near the Cumberland was the frigate Congress. When the fate of the Cumberland had been sealed the Congress slipped her cable and stood in toward the Newport News batteries until she grounded.

Securing a position where she could rake the Congress, the Virginia's fire proved so destructive, soon two white flags signalled her surrender. Buchanan at once ceased firing and ordered the gunboats Raleigh, under command of Lieutenant W. H. Parker, and the Beaufort, under Lieutenant J. W. Alexander, to proceed alongside, retain the officers, but allow the enlisted men to make their way ashore.

Treacherously, fire was opened upon the Confederates from the shore and as some assert, from the Congress. Lieutenant Minor and several of his men were wounded, while Captain Buchanan also was shot in the leg, disabling him.

The gunboats were recalled and the Virginia then pumped incendiary shells and hot shot into the Congress, which soon set her on fire, her magazine exploding near midnight. The loss on the Congress was also 121 men and officers.

In the Roads also were the United States frigates Minnesota, Roanoke and St. Lawrence. These were lower down near Fortress Monroe, but when the action with the Cumberland and Congress began started up the Roads to jointly engage this fearful Confederate monster.

These ships got around and the Virginia engaged them at long range. The Roanoke and St. Lawrence succeeded in getting off the shoals and proceeded back to Fortress Monroe. The Minnesota, however, was hopelessly aground, but at such a distance from the Virginia her artillery practice was not very effective.

Darkness dropping her curtain of night upon the exciting scene, the Virginia and her consorts of converted gunboats steamed back into Norfolk harbor.

That night there arrived in the Roads a nondescript fighting machine, destined to give to the world the new idea of maritime warfare, in the "cheese-box on a raft"—John Ericksson's Monitor—the principles of which have been absorbed by all the maritime powers and to-day constitute the offensive and defensive naval architecture of all the nations of the world. This anomaly reported to Commodore Paulding. The Washington authorities advised of the result of the Virginia's encounter with the wooden vessels of the United States Navy, ordered the Monitor to proceed at once up the Potomac to guard at the river and protect the water approach to Washington. This order was disregarded and the Monitor proceeded to where the Minnesota had grounded.

The successes of the 8th gave the officers and crew of the Virginia assurance of mastery of the Roads, and on the 9th the dreaded monster steamed slowly out of the Elizabeth River intent on completing the destruction of all the Federal vessels that could be reached.

As the Virginia proceeded to take the best and nearest approach it could reach, by which to open fire upon the Minnesota, the strange craft came from under the cover of the wooden frigate, firing as it advanced.

At first the Virginia disregarded her fire, but soon the heavy 11-inch shots of the Monitor compelled attention, and then the two crafts became engaged at close quarters.

At times these strange crafts were in actual contact, and for four hours rained shot and shell upon their respective armored sides.

Once the Virginia grounded; then the light draft Yankee nondescript circled the grounded Confederate monster three times trying to find a weak spot in her armor. Then the Virginia got off the shoal and a shot from one of her rifle guns crashed against the pilot house of the Monitor. Commander Worden and his chief engineer were at the conning crevice, scanning the Confederate ram, when the engineer discovered one of the rifle guns trained upon the pilot house and warned Worden to drop from the crevice. But too late came the warning. A rifle shell crashed against the staunch ten-by-seven solid iron logs, and the concussion and splinters blinded and wounded Worden. Lieutenant Green was hastily summoned from the turret to assume command.

Many Northern writers and so-called historians have credited the Monitor with victory in this great battle. For four hours had these novel antagonists battered each other, each intent on the destruction of the other.

No Confederate authority acknowledges defeat of the Virginia, but insist that Victory laid her crown of immortelles upon the slanting roofs of the Virginia.

In the recent autobiography of General Nelson A. Miles, in serial sketches in the Cosmopolitan Magazine, that ex-officer has this to say: "After the waters of the Chesapeake had been made safe by the decisive victory of the Monitor in the battle with the Confederate ironclad Merrimac, in Hampton Roads, the Army of the Potomac was moved down the Potomac and up the James and York rivers."

General Miles ought to be considered pretty good authority, but he has not consulted facts in this case. I have stated, no Confederate authority admits the defeat of the Virginia. We will introduce two witnesses of General Mile's own to controvert or rebut his testimony.

Captain G. J. Van Brunt, commanding the grounded frigate Minnesota, on the 10th of March, the day after the combat between the Virginia and the Monitor, made his formal report of the part in which his ship figured. Quoting from that report, referring to the time when the Virginia had run aground: "As soon as she got off she stood down the bay, the little battery (the Monitor) chasing her with all speed, when suddenly the Merrimac turned around and ran full speed into her antagonist. For a moment I was anxious, but instantly I saw a shot flung into the iron roof of the Merrimac, which surely must have damaged her. For some time after the rebels (?) concentrated their whole battery upon the tower and pilot house of the Monitor, and soon after the latter stood down for Fortress Monroe, and we thought it probable she had exhausted her supply of ammunition or sustained some injury.

"Soon after the Merrimac and two other steamers headed for my ship, and I felt to the fullest extent my condition. * * *

"On ascending to the poop deck, I observed that the enemy's vessels had changed their course and were heading for Craney Island."

Now, we will quote that graphic and descriptive writer, Major C. B. Lewis, who under his pen name of "M. Quad," is known wherever English language is read. "M. Quad" was like General Miles in the Potomac Army, when that little incident in Hampton Roads took place. In his charming war history, "Field, Fort and Fleet," after giving an intensely interesting detail of the combat, has this to say: "Every Federal historian closes his account of this engagement by having the Merrimac turn and retreat. Outside of the indignant denial of her crew, scores of Norfolk's citizens, as well as a French sea captain who saw every movement, claim the Monitor ceased fighting after Worden was blinded and started for the cover of the shore guns. It is certain the Merrimac had suffered no loss, her crew was full of fight, and there was no reason why she should have cried quits."

Lieutenant Catesby Jones, commanding the Virginia in this combat, agrees, in his report, with Captain Van Brunt: yet in the face of evidence produced from both sides, there are partisans who pose as historians who repeat the slander and call such the facts of history.

Suppose we supplement the story of the Hampton Roads battle of March 9 with some subsequent data. Such will have some bearing on the "facts of history."

On the return of the "Virginia" to Norfolk she was placed in the dry dock and repaired, her bow stiffened and prow replaced, her damaged armor plates replaced and 432 new plates of 281 tons added to her armor, the two damaged rifles replaced, improved solid shot added to her ammunition and her steering geer improved. The ship was placed under the command of Admiral Josiah Hattnall, of Georgia, and on April 11 the ship again passed out of the Elizabeth River into Hampton Roads and offered battle. The Virginia steamed down not far from Fortress Monroe and the Ropraps and sent her wooden consorts in, which cut out three vessels from under the guns of Fort Monroe and towed them as captures back to Norfolk.

Here was the gauge of battle thrown down, but the Monitor, with steam up, remained at anchor. If she had driven the Virginia from the field on March 9 there should have been confidence in her ability to again do so, but no movement was made by the Monitor toward another test of guns and armor.

For the next four weeks the Virginia alternated between Norfolk harbor and Hampton Roads, but the Monitor carefully refrained from any hostile movement. Matters were now drawing to a crisis in the career of the Virginia. Burnside's operations on the North Carolina coast put the Confederate possession of Norfolk in jeopardy, McClellan was preparing to descend the Potomac with his army. Orders were issued to transfer as much ordnance and stores as possible from Norfolk, and preparations made to evacuate the city.

May 5 Captain James Byers of the tug J. B. White was instructed to proceed early that morning to Sewell's Point to tow back to Norfolk a vessel containing the most valuable gun at that place—an 11-inch Columbiad. Captain Byers steamed past the point, and putting on all speed for Fort Monroe, deserted to the enemy, and gave General Wood full information of the condition of affairs at Norfolk.

Promptly General Wood dispatched the two ironclads, Monitor and Naugatuck, the sloops-of-war Susquehanna and San Jacinto, with the gunboats Seminole and Dekotah, to bombard the Confederate batteries at Sewell's Point. These batteries were being dismantled preparatory to the evacuation of Norfolk and were therefore illy prepared for the attack.

The Virginia was taking on stores at the navy yard at the time the bombardment began, and as soon as steam could be gotten up the ship put out for the scene of conflict. As the Virginia rounded the point the six vessels engaged in bombardment, the last one of them, abandoned the attack and sought cover under the guns of Fortress Monroe.

The evacuation of Norfolk brought the brief career of the ironclad Virginia to a tragic end. Admiral Tattnall lightened her as much as possible in order to get her up the James, even to the point of exposing the hull below her armor belt.

A strong westerly wind of two days had so lowered the water in the river the pilots affirmed the ship could not steam up the James. There was, therefore, but one alternative left, and before day of the morning of May 11, 1862, the now famous fighting machine Virginia was given a prey to the fire fiend, and about 5 A. M. the flames reached the magazine and the ship was blown up.

Yet with plenty of data at hand General Miles asserts the result of the day's action, 9th of March, as a "decisive victory of the Monitor." The retired lieutenant-general could with equal veracity quote and indorse the now famous dispatch of Major-General John Pope at Second Manassas, to Major-General Halleck, general-in-chief at Washington. "We have won a great victory!" Captain Van Braut, of the Minnesota, the officers of both the English and French war vessels and M. Quod, directly refute the statement of General Miles, as well as the so-called historian who chronicled the fiction of the Monitor's victory.

There is a sequel to that strenuous battle at Hampton Roads. In 1884 the survivors of the crew of the Monitor created a public sentiment favorable to a bill for an appropriation of $200,000 to distribute to these survivors as prize money for destroying the "rebel ram Merrimac." Some opposition eventuated in referring the bill to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and on the 31st of May, 1884, Mr. Ballentine from that committee made the following report:

"All the evidence leads us clearly to the opinion that the Monitor, after her engagement with the Merrimac, on the 9th of March, declined again to engage her, though offered the opportunity; and that so great doubt exists with the United States naval and military authorities as to the power of the Monitor to successfully meet the Merrimac, that orders were given her commander by the President not to bring on an engagement.

"It alsl appears that the Merrimac, so far from being seriously injured, was enabled after the engagement to protect the approaches to Norfolk and Richmond until after the evacuation. * * * We assume that the proof shows that the only serious damage sustained by the Merrimac was inflicted by the Cumberland, and that the Merrimac went back to Norfolk when her adversaries were out of her reach; and they being in shoal water, and she on account of the great depth of water which she drew, unable to attack them, went into dock for repairs and again came out and offered battle, which was refused; and that eventually, on the evacuation of Norfolk by the Confederate forces, she was destroyed by her officers and crew to prevent her falling into the hands of the Union forces, and that therefore her destruction was not the result of her engagement with the Monitor, and that if the proof shows this state of facts to exist, the claim of the petitioners in this memorial ought not to be allowed." Then after submitting the proof substantiated the above assumption, concludes: "Holding these views, we report adversely to the passage of the bill."

That effort was a splendid specimen of our present-day graft. Yet even the House could not stomach such rank audacity. General Miles can add this investigation to his claim of "the decisive victory" of the Monitor. "Sic transit gloria mundi," and in like manner passes the claim of victory for the Monitor over the Virginia.

The fiction of the victory of the Monitor over the Virginia keeps pace with the romance of General Grant's magnaminity in returning General Lee's sword in the ceremonies of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, 9th April, 1865. Neither instance has the foundation of fact to sustain it. Yet each incident finds some new romance almost every month to exploit either or both fictions.

WHERE SOME OF THE GENERALS ARE BURIED.

The following list of burial places of Confederate generals may be of interest to old soldiers: General Felix K. Zollicoffer was buried in the old City Cemetery, and General Maney in the Mount Olivet Cemetery, Nashville, Tenn. General Ben Hardee Helm, killed in the battle of Chickamauga, lies at Helm Place, Elizabethtown, Ky. General Leonidas Polk, killed by a cannon ball on Lost Mountain, near Marietta, Ga., is buried under the Episcopal Church, Augusta, Ga.; General M. W. Gray is buried at Cokesbury, S. C.; Brigadier-General Richard Waterhouse died in Jefferson, Marion county, Texas; Major-General W. W. Loring is buried in St. Augustine, Fla.; General E. Kirby Smith lies in Sewanee, Tenn.; Brigadier-General J. J. Finley is buried in Gainesville, Fla.; Brigadier-General Joseph Finnigan is buried in Fernandina, Fla.; General Patten Anderson is buried in Kentucky, and Brigadier-General F. A. Sharpe, at Sewanee, Tennessee.

The Times-Dispatch GENEALOGICAL COLUMN

4-30-11 (1)

Thornton.

William Thornton took up land in Gloucester in 1704. The Thorntons, of Stafford, King George, Richmond, Northumberland, Essex, Caroline, Spotsylvania, Orange, Culpeper, Madison, Brunswick are descended of this William, grantee of 1701.

William Thornton, Sr., is memorialized forever by a paper which he signed in York county on May 11, 1646. By this writing he pledged himself to care for the cattle of John Liptrot until he (John Liptrot) should come of age. What a small transaction survives the wear and tear of time and war, etc.!

Twenty years later this William Thornton takes up land in Gloucester, in Pettsworth Parish, and becomes a vestryman of Pettsworth Church. And in his old age (1708) William Thornton, the emigrant, removed to Stafford county.

His son, William Thornton (2), remained in Gloucester. He was born in 1649, and married three times. Time has not been as kind to the ladies of his choice as to John Liptrot and his cattle, for the name of each wife is absolutely lost. There is a family Bible, once belonging to this remote gentleman, in which he recorded the names of his sixteen children; took the entire credit of their existence to himself, and never once mentioned the name of a blessed wife or mother. In this age it might have been the other—never this—way.

He had Elizabeth (3), Margaret (3), Mary (3), Esther (3), Sarah (3), Jane (3), Judith (3), Anna (3) (did he writhe in indignation over the recurrent female?), William (3), Susan (3), Francis (3), Seth (3), William (3) and Prudence (3), twins; John (3), and Johanna (3). The first son must have died.

Francis (3) Thornton, the oldest son to survive, was born in 1692, and died 1737. He, too, was vestryman of Pettsworth Parish, probably living on the 1704 land grant, married (name of wife unknown), and had William (4), who removed from Gloucester to Brunswick county, and was a member of the House of Burgesses, 1756, 1762, 1765, 1767, 1768. He married Jane, probably a daughter of Sterling Clack, for some time clerk of Brunswick county. He had sons and daughters, whose record is not clear, besides Sterling (5), Peter (5) Presley, and Francis (5).

Peter Presley (5), his youngest child, married Elizabeth McCulloch, and had Elizabeth (6), William S. (6), Roderick McCulloch (6), Jane Clack, Isabella, Mary Jones, Peter Presley, James Francis, Robert Horsley, Belinda Ann, who married Francis E. Quarles, of King and Queen county.

Sterling (5) Thornton and Francis (5) evidently went back to Gloucester, and it is most probable that William (4) and Jane Clack were married before they emigrated to Brunswick. Jane Clack was a descendant of James Clack, who was rector of Ware Parish from 1679 to 1723. The tomb of the Reverend James stands at Ware Church, and the inscription is:

"Here lyeth the Body of
James Clack, son of William and Mary
Clack, who was born in the Parish
of Marden * * * Miles from
the Devizes, in the County
of Wilts.
He came out of England in August,
1678. Arrived in Virginia upon New
Year's Day following; came into
the Parish of Ware on Easter,
Where he continued Minister near forty-five
years, till he
Dyed.
He departed this life on the 20th day
of December, in the year of our
Lord God 1723, in hopes of a
joyful Resurrection to Eternal Life, which God grant
him for his Blessed
Redeemer's Sake.
Amen."

It must be a satisfaction to all descendants of this Reverend James and Mary Clack to know of this ponderous black marble tomb, still eloquent and appealing, at the corner of old Ware Church. Many are the men, women and children who have read it as they leant against its heavy, defiant sides, hardly able to realize that this Minister James Clack ever lived the common life as we live to-day. The Clacks and Thorntons left Gloucester about the same time.

Sterling (5) Thornton died in Pettsworth Parish and made his will in 1790. He left one son, John (6). Are the Thorntons still living in Ware Neck descended from this Sterling (5) Thornton or his brother, Francis (5)?

It is still a pleasure for us to recall Mr. Francis Thornton, of Ware Neck, and his children, several of whom live in Gloucester still, and we should like to give them a clean bill of descent from the grantee of 1704. The later Thorntons long ago gave up these acres in Pettsworth Parish and lived in the wave-washed portion of Gloucester, known as Ware Neck. Mr. Francis Thornton of our acquaintance married a Miss Cljverius, as did his neighbor, William Vaughan. There was also a Mr. William Thornton who lived in Guinea, and had a large family, and a son named Meany.

Sterling Thornton in his will speaks of his brother, John Seawell, which action of his shows how very eager for relationship were folk of his day.

Jane Boswell first married his brother (baptismal name unknown), who died, and she married, secondly, John Seawell, whom Sterling Thornton calls brother, and leaves John Seawell's children a part of his estate should his own son, John (6), die. His other legatees (if his son should die) are the children of his brother, Francis (5); viz.: James (6), Elizabeth (6), Ann (6), Francis (6). Was this James the father of the late Francis Thornton, of Gloucester? He also leaves a sum to "My relation, Meany Thornton."

Whose son was Meany? and was he the grandfather of Meany Thornton, now living in Guinea. We should appreciate any assistance in this matter.

There are small facts constantly creeping out of old records which show the care of Virginians for their faithful slaves. Sterling (5) Thornton in his will says: "Item. I desire that my executor, hereafter named do build a comfortable house, twelve by sixteen feet, for my negro woman, Cate, and her children to live in, and that it be placed in the peach orchard, back of the little house in the garden, and that the said Cate be annually furnished out of my estate with two hundred weight of good pork, salt and meal, as well as clothes, and it is my will that the said Cate may never be compelled to work unless she chooses, and that she may be found firewood. Item: I desire that the old woman, Leah, shall have to her own use and disposal, one-half the money she may earn as a midwife."

Cate probably was the family nurse or cook, and Leah had presided for many a year at the solemn ceremony of birth, and had guided the children of the neighborhood through the first crucial months of their existence.

Jane Boswell, who first married the brother of Sterling Thornton, is recorded to have had "expressive black eyes." She was the sister of Mrs. Elizabeth Wormeley, afterwards Mrs. Braxton; of Dr. Thomas Macnin Boswell and Mrs. Elizabeth Roy.

Any information of this interesting Thornton family, of Gloucester, we will very gladly publish.

Of this same parent stock are the Thorntons of Fall Hill, near Fredericksburg; the Thorntons of "Northumberland House," inherited from the Presleys by intermarriage; Professor William Thornton, of the University of Virginia, and many other notable people.

1677.—Robert, Thomas, Joseph and John Coleman, all living in Abingdon Parish, married, rearing families—sons of Robert Coleman, Sr., who patented 693 acres on Rappahannock 1662-66.

1. Robert, will probated Essex county, 1713; wife, Ann. Ch'l'den: Thomas, Robert, Edmund, Ann and Grizell.
2. Thomas, of Abingdon Parish, 1677; wife, Rebecca. Children: John, Grizell, Rebecca, Sarah, Thomas, Mary, John and Robert.
3. Joseph, of Abingdon Parish, 1677; wife Agnes; sons, John and Adleston.
4. John, of Abingdon Parish, 1677; married (1), Margaret, and (2) Ann; sons, James and Richard. Descendants of all of there in the old Abingdon Parish register. Grizell, a favorite name, is among them.

1675.—Thomas Sewell, 150 acres joining Robert Coleman and Daniel Langham. Thomas Sewell (or Seawell) had patented 400 acres on Pocosin River, York county, 1635. Thomas and Mary Seawell issue: Thomas, born 1680; John, born 1683. John and Elizabeth Seawell issue: Sarah, born 1746. Joseph Seawell's slave, Peter, born 1760.

1768.—Robert Bryan and Sarah, his wife, lived in Abingdon Parish; Son, Robert, born 1688; Koshen, born 1690.

1702.—Robert Bryan, son of Robert Bryan, late deceased, of Gloucester, 57 acres on the branches of the Severn River, and in the corner of the land of Valentine Lane and Benjamin Lane. He had also "lot 19" in Gloucestown, in Miles Cary's survey, and plat of the town, April 19, 1707.

1702.—John Stubbs, escheat lands of Christopher Webster, 1.. acres.

1703.—John Stubbs, 50 acres joining Colonel Augustine Warner, William Boulin and Mr. Wall, headright, John Maylor. He was son of John and Susannah Stubbs, living in Abingdon Parish 1678 and earlier.

1719.—John Lewis, joining Jacob Hurst, Warner's and Darrell's land.

1748.—William Camp, 30 acres, of which eleven are on two islands.

We print this article by request of a subscriber who asks the favor, and will print the answers to her queries if furnished.—Editor.

My mother, Julia Ann Hipkinstal Freeman Curtis (we do not know how to spell Hipkinstal) is named after her grandmother, Judy Ann Hipkinstal, of England, who landed at Jamestown during the latter part of the seventeenth century, bound for Gloucester county, to inherit land left by a relative. My mother tells me her mother said she was cheated out of this land.

Judy did not return to England. In a short while she married Nelson Diggle (as pronounced by mother) in Gloucester. Nelson Diggle (could it have been Dregle?), while serving his country during the Mexican War, fell overboard from a ship in Chesapeake Bay and was drown. As he sank he said: "Don't be afraid, boys; throw me a line."

Judy Ann Hipkinstal and Nelson Diggle's first child was born January 1 or 2, 1800. They had Eliza McTerre (as pronounced by mother; could it have been McIntyre?) in 1802 (died aged forty-seven), and Mary Diggle. Mary Diggle married Ben Hopkins (Gloucester) and emigrated to Kentucky. We know nothing of them.

Eliza McTerre Diggle (my grandmother) married John Richard Freeman (English descent, born 1802, died at thirty-five).

Eliza McTerre Diggle Freeman and John Richard Freeman had: (1) Jennie Freeman (unmarried); (2) Sarah Freeman, who married ——— Hopkins, and (3) Julia Ann Hipkinstal Freeman, who married William H. Curtis, of Hampton, Va.

Sarah Freeman, who married ——— Hopkins, lived at Fox Hill, not far from Hampton, Va. Hopkins's first wife was Widow Drummond, of Fox Hill, by whom he had several children, one of whom married Captain John A. Curtis, of this city.

The issue of ——— Hopkins and the Widow Drummond were Anne Maria and a son, who, with his father's ship, was lost. This drove Hopkins insane.

The issue of Hopkins and Sarah Freeman was Moses, who died young.

Jennie and Sarah (refugees from Hampton), both died the same week in Richmond, during the War Between the States, leaving my mother, Julia Ann Hipkinstal Freeman Curtis, the only surviving sister.

My mother's mother, Eliza McTerre Diggle Freeman, died when she was sixteen, leaving her to the care of Mrs. Julia Smithers, a friend.

Mrs. Smithers was a Miss Browning, of Washington, who first married Cooper, then Smithers, and lived in Gloucester. Mrs. Smithers's stepdaughter, Mrs. Ellen Blake (very old), now lives in Hampton, Va.

The Freeman, Smithers and Curtis families removed from Gloucester to Elizabeth City county and surrounding counties.

(1) Can you help me with the spelling of these proper names?
(2) Can you tell me anything about the Hipkinstal family in England?
(3) Can you tell me anything about the Hipkinstal family of Virginia?
(4) Whom did Judy journey over to visit?
(5) Who left Judy land?

My father and his nine living children (four living now by his first wife, all over seventy, and five by his second), have lived through every President's administration up to the present time. If my father were living now he would be 115 years old.

My father, Captain William H. Curtis, was born in 1796, in Northumberland county. His father died when he was six years of age (his mother, it is supposed, in childbirth), leaving him to the care of Aunt Tignor. We remember a relic of hers, a very small trunk, covered with horsehair, and heavily studded with brass nails. This trunk was called Aunt Polly's trunk, so her name must have been Polly Tignor. We do not know if she were married or not. The trunk was given to a child who expressed a wish for it, and has disappeared.

Another relic that disappeared just after war times—my father and mother were refugees, but kept that book all during the struggle—was a red morocco book about eight inches by twelve, called the family tree. The writing was fine and black. My sister says she can see how it looked now, but can tell nothing therein.

Aunt Tignor removed to Hampton, Va., when my father was a child.

Captain Curtis's first wife was Tabitha White, of Maryland, who, while visiting a relative, Mrs. Wallace, of Fox Hill, was married to him. Tabitha had seven sisters. Captain White, who was a merchant and trader, running his ships to ports further North, brought all of the sisters, at various times, to his home. Amanda White died; the others married. I have often heard the remark that almost everybody at Fox Hill is related to my half-brothers and sisters.

Tabby had an Uncle Billy White, father of the late Sam White, of Hampton. Uncle Billy's grandchildren, great-grandchildren, perhaps great-great-grandchildren, now live in Richmond.

When Lafayette visited this country in 1825 (my mother, the second wife, was not then born), Captain C... wife, Tabby, was one of the ladi... held an arch of flowers for ... walk under. He looked at h... asked: "Is that a beautiful wo... a beautiful statue?"

Captain William H. Curtis ... wife, Tabby, were buried in ... yard in Hampton, which h... been taken for residential ... These graves happen to be ... middle of the street, which ... come a thoroughfare. I supp... Tignor is buried somewhere ... ton.

Captain William H. Curtis's ... wife was my mother, Julia Ann Hipkenstal Freeman Curtis (born ... still living), granddaughter of ... original Judy, who landed at J... town and married Nelson Diggle.

Captain William Curtis had an ... with a Biblical name, who was w... ed or killed at the battle of B... Hill. He wanted his Confederat... baby named Lot, after him, b... mother named him Beauregard.

(1) As only Massachusetts ... fought at Bunker Hill, do yo... think this proves that Captain ... liam H. Curtis came from th... England branch of that family?
(2) Can you tell me if a Lot ... fought at Bunker Hill?
(3) Or a Curtis with any other Bibl... cal name? He had another, my moth... says.
(4) Or a William Curtis fought ... Bunker Hill?

As my father was an only child, ... we not suppose he was called af... his father? So his father may h... fought also.

Aunt Betsy ———, an old lady ... the White (Captain Curtis's first ... owned a tract of land on which ... of Baltimore is built. She gave ... city a ninety-nine-year lease. ... lapsed about forty years ago. ... yers from Baltimore came to Ha... to see my father about this lease ... he engaged a Hampton lawyer, ... to protect his interests. But w... nothing. Soon after Lawyer ... bought the beautiful estate, Ros... near Hampton, which later cam... the hands of Mr. Phoebus, wh... the Hygeia Hotel. I think the ... bus family still live there.

(1) Can you find out how the ... Baltimore got the tract of la... which the City Hall is built? ...
(2) Can you tell me where I ... the record of that deed?
(3) Do you know of any othe... ily whose two generations hav... ered every President's administr...

One of Captain Curtis's sons, ... ard (now of Norfolk), was on th... ginia during that famous fig... Hampton Roads with the Monitor ... of the Curtises of the present g... tion enlisted during the Spanish-... ican War and fought in Cuba, ... in the navy, made that famou... around the world with the fleet.

Captain William Curtis did goo... vice to the South during the C... erate War. Although over sixt... was in the transportation servi... the Confederate States Navy.

Captain Curtis's children, gran... dren, greatgrandchildren and great-great-grandchildren now live in Hampton, Norfolk, Richmond and Nansemond county. "INTERESTED."

Slaughter Family.

There is a friend in Columbus, Ga., who wishes you o give her Slaughter data. Who were John Slaughter's parents? Any information you can give will be appreciated.

SUBSCRIBER.

For Croshaw see
For Slaughter see

Will the editor of the Genealogical Column please see if an answer can be found to the following:

Elizabeth Terrill, daughter of Robert Terrill, of Orange county, Va., whose will dated 1786, is on record there, was the wife of a Mr. Rucker, whose given name I am trying to find. She (Elizabeth Terrill Rucker) was the mother of Elizabeth, whose husband was a Mr. Herring; and the mother of Mary Rucker, whose husband was a Mr. Creed. Both were married women in 1786, according to the will. Elizabeth Terrill must have married sometime during the sixties, probably about 1763 or 1764.

I ask an insertion of this query hoping that it may attract the eye of her Herring or Creed descendants, or any others who may know positively. Both families—the Ruckers and Terrills—lived in Orange county, Va.

There were two sons born to Elizabeth Terrill Rucker, whose names were Ephraim and Reuben.

I have a tradition to the effect that they were sons of Angus Rucker, which the name of Ephraim seems to confirm as the latter was the name of the father of Angus.

Angus Rucker was married a second time to Miss Jane Allen, and by her had six children, all mentioned in his will (on record in Madison county). The first wife's children were pr... allowed their own portion befo... ...h. I w... of the abo...